



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND ISLAND – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. announce contestants from across Nebraska who have entered the Preliminary Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Video Contest and local Partner Talent Searches and have qualified to advance to the 2016 Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair on Saturday, September 3rd from 6:00 – 9:00 PM.

Thirty Acts from twenty-five Nebraska towns will compete live on the Bristol Windows Stage at Fonner Park in Grand Island in Three Age Divisions, Comets, Shooting Stars and Novas. The Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals & Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 4th from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Over \$9,000.00 in prizes, cash, trophies will be presented at the Awards Ceremony following the Finals competition. Overall Vocalist will receive a Nashville Recording Package. Special entertainment features past Galaxy of Stars® Mega Star Winners: 2010 Amanda Winter, Nashville; 2013 Justin Kane, Scottsbluff; 2014 Jessie Hake, Kearney; 2015 Major Minor 3 - Tyler Rambali, Shelby Stevens & Riley Rambali

### **Preliminary Talent Search Contestants Advancing to the Galaxy of Stars Talent Search Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair:**

**COMETS (12 & Under):** Rachel Young, Vocal, *North Platte*; Chloe Weller, Vocal, *Kearney*; Bailey Rogers, Vocal, *Minden*, Emma Nguyen, Piano, *Lincoln*; Autumn Wissenberg, Vocal, *Crete*; Stella Klingelhoefner, Vocal, *Amherst*; Ella Jaixen, Vocal, *Loup City*;

**SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):** Emery Wenz, Dance, *Lincoln*; Anastasia Zinnecker, Vocal, *Martell*; Audrey Edris, Vocal/Piano, *Papillion*; Sheyenne Weaver, Vocal, *Alliance*; Morayah Cupp, Vocal, *Champion*; Hanna Marshall, Vocal/Guitar, *Mullen*; Sara Koca, Vocal, *Hallam*; Tayce Bleich, Vocal, *Battle Creek*; Off Season Duo - Phalen Sanford & Aubrey Frederick, Group Vocal, *Benkelman*; Taylor Smith, Vocal, *Kearney*; Jesse Nelson & Natalie Raymond, Group Vocal, *Seward*.

**NOVAS (19 & Over):** Becky Jones, Vocal, *Kearney*; Ryan Martinez, Vocal, *Grand Island*; Melissa McBride, Variety/Baton, *Omaha*; Christopher “Dozer” Lewis, Vocal, *McCook*; Becky Jones & Chloe Weller, Group Vocal, *Kearney*; Hunter Nathan, Vocal/Guitar, *Howells*; Ken Hoge, Vocal, *Hubbell*; Mason Harouff, Vocal, *Culbertson*; DeAundrea Clayton, Vocal, *Grand Island*; Jessica Owens, Vocal, *Hastings*; Tazalea Scott, Vocal/Guitar, *Westerville*; Megan Behlen, Vocal/Guitar, *Seward*.

**Songwriting Contest:** Songwriters of the Top Three Highest Scoring Original Songs will have an opportunity to showcase their songs on Sunday, September 4th at the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals on the Bristol Windows Stage from 6:00 - 9:00 PM at Fonner Park in Grand Island. **Top Three Original Songs of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest, in random order:** “Where Is Jesus,” Riley Rambali, *McCook*; “Family,” Ryan Martinez, *Grand Island*; “My Anniversary,” Don Mittan, *Lincoln*. The songwriters of the Top Three Original Songs will be presented with prizes, cash, trophies and recording sessions.

**A Special Galaxy of Stars® Spectacular Tribute Concert for Veterans, the U.S. Armed Forces & Their Families will be presented on the Bristol Windows Stage at Fonner Park Monday, September 5th from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM.**

The 2016 Nebraska State Fair opens August 26th and will run through Labor Day, September 5th. Visit [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org) and [www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com](http://www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com) for more information.